

*3-Dimensional
Christianity*

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

In the Bible, the number three is very important. Jesus raised three people from the dead: Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:22-24, 35-42), Lazarus (John 11:38-44), and the widow's son (Luke 7:12-15). Three.

On the Cross, the sign above Jesus' head (naming the "offense" he was guilty of) was written in three languages (John 19:19-20), indicating the fullness of man's rejection of the Messiah.

Jesus was raised on the third day (Luke 13:32).

As members of the human race, created in the image of God, we have three dimensions: the spirit (God-consciousness), the soul (self-consciousness), and the body (world consciousness), in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Together, these three dimensions form the instrument through which Jesus performs it all (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Everyone has problems. Yet, a person who is

always worn down by problems often lives in only two dimensions—the soul and the body—in his relationship with God. The human spirit, which is the God-conscious dimension, is designed to bring in light from the Word of God through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (Psalm 119:130). If we are not functioning in the truth of the Word of God stored in the human spirit, God's light will not enter in, no matter how much we go to church.

There two kinds of Christians around today: those who do not see heat when it comes and those who do not see good when it comes (Jeremiah 17:5-8). We are talking about positive Spirit-filled Christians versus negative thinkers. The difference is that when the Word of God enters into Spirit-filled believers, they experience divine good and do not see the "heat" of adversity. They allow the Word of God to quicken their human spirit, engaging the third dimension of Christian living.

How can you live in the third dimension and go from being a person who doesn't see good when it comes to a person who doesn't see heat when it comes? This booklet will show you how.

Chapter One

THE SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

“For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

“For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5-9).

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit

of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:14-16).

Two dimensions cannot describe an object that has substance. Two lines cannot enclose a figure or form. Three lines—marking the dimensions of length, breadth, and depth—are necessary. The number “three” stands for things that are substantial, complete, entire, and necessary. In the natural realm, objects are divided into three kingdoms: the plant kingdom, the mineral kingdom, and the animal kingdom. In the spiritual realm, we have body, soul, and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

But until a person is saved, his human spirit is inactive because of Adam’s sin (Romans 5:12). Once he is born again by receiving Christ as his Savior, he has the opportunity to choose life continually (Romans 5:21). That keeps him “seated above” in his experience—living in three dimensions of Christian life.

Three distinct Persons who have absolute oneness make up the Trinity. God the Father is sovereign; Jesus Christ the Son is our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, co-equal with God and Jesus Christ, glorifies Jesus Christ in us (John

16:14) and also guides us as adopted children.

If the third Person, the Holy Spirit, is not allowed to have His way in us, we are never guided into God's truth. We may be sincere, but we are not led in divine guidance. We need to have this third dimension at work in us. Only the Spirit can bring this divine dimension to life.

It is important that we learn three-dimensional praying. Discover the Father's plan, experience Christ's execution of that plan, and witness the Holy Spirit's power and revelation of Christ's availability—three dimensions in action.

Tender Mercies in Action

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions" (Psalm 51:1).

"Tender mercies." I recently learned something brand-new about this. It means that God makes an unconditional commitment regardless of us. It is God committing us to the Finished Work of Christ, to the sealing of the Holy Spirit, to eternal life that we can never lose. God has

committed us to sonship forever. This is exactly the picture that is expressed in this verse.

These tender mercies come toward us. For this reason, David will be prince in the Millennial Reign in spite of the sinful things that he did in his life. In God's mind, David never turned aside (1 Kings 15:5). The Word of God tells us that we have the sure mercies of David (Isaiah 55:3; Acts 13:34).

When we understand this, we will see God move as we have never seen before.

The Power of Expectation

My soul waits only upon God. My expectation is from Him (Psalm 62:5), and this expectation shall not be cut off (Proverbs 23:18, Proverbs 24:14). In entering into the third dimension, we enter into a phase of consistency. The Resurrection is over and the Ascension is ours. The power of God is now available for three-dimensional friendships, three-dimensional relationships, and three-dimensional marriages.

Though we are saved and the Trinity dwells in us, if the Spirit is grieved, then we do not have the life of three-dimensional Christianity. We are powerless. Christ is not glorified in the details of life.

The most beautiful thing is three—God’s number of fullness. There is the principle of being filled with the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Ephesians 3:19). There is the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13, Colossians 2:9).

When I operate in the third dimension, my marriage becomes amazing. The third dimension brings in abundant life. It brings in absolute forgiveness. It brings in the tender mercies of God.

A man who had some very serious health problems was healed recently. He was even healed of a herniated disk. Three-dimensional praying brought in a wonderful healing, praise God. We have many documented reports of healing as the direct result of prayer.

Overcome Strife

“Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me” (Psalm 18:43).

David praised God for delivering him from the strivings of the people. Oh, I know a lot of precious people who strive nonetheless. A striving person comes out of experiencing a problem about six times a week, only to go right back

into another one.

Thank God that all of us can be delivered from that kind of lifestyle. If we understand that Jesus' tomb is empty, then striving will go away. We won't see the heat when it comes because we know that nothing is impossible with God. God Almighty is on our side. Beyond that, He is in us. The power of the Holy Spirit is in us.

Chapter Two

THE SUBSTANCE OF
CONVICTION

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

“And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

“And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

“Jesus said unto him, It is written again,

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

“And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

“Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

“Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him” (Matthew 4:1-11).

Notice, Jesus always answered the devil with “It is written....It is written....It is written.” Three times Jesus said this, speaking of the perfection of the Word of God. In other words, Jesus was telling Satan, “You can’t touch this, devil!”

“It is written....”

“It is written....”

“It is written....”

Satan had to flee.

Still, Satan does try to take away from the Word, add to the Word, and alter the Word (Revelation 22:18-19; Deuteronomy 4:2; 11:16-20). He tries to take from the Word so that we won’t be complete, so we won’t be mature. Satan tries to

add to the Word so that we will live in a kind of “liberty” that is not the liberty we have in Christ (Galatians 5:1; Romans 8:21). Also, the devil tries to alter the Word of God so that we think that we don’t have to submit to it.

In Genesis 3, Eve failed three times when confronted by Satan. But Jesus Christ answered, “It is written” three times when tempted by Satan. The truth experienced in the third dimension of the human spirit gives us complete and full victory.

“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

“Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

“And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass” (Psalm 37:4-7).

When we began our ministry, the desire of our heart was to have a building, fill it up, and send missionaries into all the world. Our desire was to have oneness, unity, and peace. Our desire was to go forward with supernatural grace and supernatural power in a supernatural expecta-

tion.

Oh, the things God is going to do for those who let Him by committing their way unto the Lord. Trust in Him, and *He* will bring these things to pass. Pick up some promises from God today and believe, and He will give you the desires of your heart.

When the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit take over, we have fullness. We see that nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37). The very things that seem impossible for us are possible with God (Matthew 19:26).

Bible Evidence of Conviction

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

“Of sin, because they believe not on me;

“Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged” (John 16:8-11).

If a Christian is not living in the third dimension, he will have no conviction. He may be living with God the Father and redemption through Jesus Christ, but without the Illuminator—the Holy Spirit—fully operating, he will

have no conviction. God's viewpoint cannot be interpreted through the Holy Spirit in his life. God may do something supernatural right in front of him, but he will not be moved by it.

Many decent churches preach the Gospel but do not go soul winning. They have no outreach program and they are grieving the Holy Spirit. There is no conviction prompting them to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The first thing the Holy Spirit does is to convict. When a Christian makes a decision to withdraw from attending a Spirit-filled church, he is not convicted. He can hear any kind of message, but he rationalizes, regulates, and eliminates its effect in his life. No conviction.

The Spirit convicts as He did in the Word of God. Joseph's brothers were convicted when they met Joseph again years after selling him into slavery (see Genesis 45:4-5). They came under great conviction when he revealed himself to them.

Isaiah was convicted when he saw the Lord high and lifted up, in Isaiah 6. Three seraphim were singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts." All Isaiah could see was the seraphim's wings. Smoke came in and the temple began to

shake.

“Woe is me, for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips,” Isaiah said (see Isaiah 6:5). As far as we know, this was the first time in his ministry that the prophet was convicted. Then the seraphim took a live coal from off the altar and touched Isaiah’s lips, saying, “Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged” (Isaiah 6:7).

The Trinity asked, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

“Here am I; send me,” responded the prophet.

Conviction is such a precious and sacred thing. We are so limited in our knowledge of absolutes. When we start with absolute love, absolute grace, absolute power, absolute holiness, and absolute promises, we will find absolute answers.

God’s Moves Bring Changes

God moves in the third dimension and the result is conviction.

Jonah ran when he was told to preach in Nineveh. He spent three days in a big fish and, finally, came under conviction. He went and preached and the city repented for the wicked, wicked things it was doing. Many lives were

saved.

Ezra was convicted and he then identified with the people of Israel (Ezra 9:6). He preached to them and the people got right. Ezra's conviction led to their conviction and ultimately obedience.

Another picture of conviction involved Peter after he denied Christ three times. Jesus appeared to Peter and the disciples many times after His resurrection. Peter didn't want to see Jesus. He was so filled with guilt, so filled with shame and remorse. But the Holy Spirit, breathed out by Jesus upon the disciples, began to convict Peter's conscience. God wooed Peter through love and through forgiveness by conviction.

In the seventh chapter of Romans, we can see Paul the apostle under tremendous conviction and in deep trouble with his soul. But he came right out of it by receiving the revelation of Romans 8, starting with verse one, "There is therefore now no condemnation...."

As long as a minister and ministry have conviction, they have something very, very precious. One of the most difficult things to watch when you are praying for someone is when the Word isn't received as a two-edged sword,

bringing conviction the way it should.

This is important because, sooner or later, every one of God's people has to come to a decision. We are constantly in a place where we have to come to a decision. Conviction leads to right decisions. Without right decisions, we have no conviction.

Whenever I read something or hear something that I know is for me, I immediately write it down. I allow the conviction to lead me into a conversion. No matter how small a thing it is, I agree with the Spirit and say, "That is for me."

I believe with all my heart that God wants His people to come to right decisions through choosing life (Deuteronomy 30:15), so we can be blessed. We have a tremendous future in front of us. We have such possibilities. We don't know when Christ is coming. We know not when we are to meet Him. So, we need to be a people who allow the Word of God to bring in faith and let faith execute conviction and let conviction bring in a conversion to make right decisions.

Chapter Three

COMMUNION, CONSISTENCY, AND COMMUNICATION

When we consider decisions, we are brought into conclusions. Every single matter has a conclusion. As we get alone with God and let the Holy Spirit minister, we realize that in every area of our lives we need a conviction for a conclusion. We have to continually ask ourselves, "If I keep making these decisions, where will they lead me in my conclusion?" What will be the end result?

As a pastor, it is most difficult to watch seasonal Christians throw their lives away. I feel so helpless in seeing isolated individuals make a series of decisions against convictions. No longer do they respond to the Word of God, because they have established their own Christian philosophy, void of the whole truth. They have already decided what they will believe and what they are not going to accept, based upon self-prefer-

ences.

It is so crucial that we do not react negatively when God allows us to face verbal or physical challenges in our lives. We must not respond in self-defense and self-preservation. As we abide in faith-rest, filled with the Holy Spirit, God will operate freely through us. We will reveal His character in the situation.

God wants us to have a conviction of what sin is. God wants to have the conviction of judgment because the prince of the world is judged. He wants us to have the conviction of God's righteousness and Satan's defeat. God's righteousness is our righteousness, and that takes away any possibility of satanic victory in our lives.

Steadfast and Immovable

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

With conviction comes consistency. To be steadfast means that we determine to go forward without change or equivocation. There is no hesitation but a determination to do right.

I thank God for everyone who is steadfast. The blessing of a pastor is when he sees people remain steadfast as an army in the Finished Work. Steadfast people don't leave the devil much room to play with them.

Another thing conviction does is make us immovable. "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8). Finances, health troubles, domestic problems—none of these things can move me because the Lord is before my face. Consider someone who is immovable because of conviction and conversion; one who has humility in agreeing with God no matter what is happening.

Those who are steadfast and immovable always abound in the work of the Lord. If I am abounding in the Lord's work, then I am occupied with Christ. When I am occupied with Christ, then I enter into faith-rest. Resting in God's love by faith is the greatest manifestation of maturity we can ever have (Zephaniah 3:17).

Thank God for faith-resting in love. That means I am not resting in what I do, I am not resting in how I feel, I am not resting in what I don't do, but I am resting in what He did. I am resting in Calvary's love, which never changes

and is so supreme.

Effectual Communication

“That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus” (Philemon 6).

Another effective principle for three-dimensional Christians is godly communication. Philemon 6 refers to how we communicate according to the power of the residency that is at work in our hearts in a residual process of responding.

We have this precious life of God. Oh, I am so grateful for the life of God. It is so precious, so precious. Just to be saved, to have God’s life and get up with it, to go to sleep with it, to face situations with it is a marvelous, wonderful, glorious thing. As His vessels on earth, we have the privilege of communicating what is within us—releasing that life according to the power in us.

It is a very sacred thing to be on this planet at this time, in the midst of everything that is going on in terms of worldly compromise and lasciviousness. Here, we have the privilege to be able to communicate life from heaven through our human vessels.

All of this leads to communion, which is so

precious. As I release and express the Word of God, I am also eating His bread, feeding on His doctrine, drinking the “new wine” of the Holy Spirit, experiencing the joy of eternal life.

No wonder the psalmist and Joshua said that their delight was in “meditating on the Word of God day and night” (Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8). From meditation comes communion. Communion is being still before God: He speaks, we respond. He speaks again, we respond. Then, He gives illumination that blesses us now and will help us in the future. Our communion is by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. It is that great and wonderful principle of meditation in the third dimension of the resurrection power of Christ.

CONCLUSION

“Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

“And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

“And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy [Spirit]” (John 20:19-22).

After He was resurrected, Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room. The doors were locked because of fear. Yet, Jesus showed Himself to the disciples—and they were glad that they saw the Lord.

“Peace be unto you,” Jesus said to them.

“Don’t fear. I want you to have a three-dimensional peace. I am risen. Peace, love, forgiveness—it is all yours. Access to the throne of God—it’s yours! Power is now inside of you. Promises are inside of you. The Trinity is inside of you.”

As we use the promises of God, we leap forward in areas we have never known. God will go beyond what we ask or think. More than waiting to be gracious to us, God gets the greatest blessing out of blessing us, to give us happiness and joy. He gets a great blessing out of answering our prayers. He gets a great blessing when we let Him love us.

The Spirit, the water, and the Word bear witness on earth. They bear witness to the grace of God; they bear witness that His Work is finished. We have all things pertaining to life and godliness through living in the third dimension, which is complete, substantial, and more than enough.

We have all received a gift of grace—a grace that is so beautiful. Everyone who is born again has been given a measure of that grace (Ephesians 4:7). As three-dimensional Christians, we have the opportunity to grow in grace and in exceeding faith (2 Thessalonians 1:3). We have an

amazing privilege to have the wonderful, matchless, unsearchable grace of God as the premise for our every presupposition, the premise for every decision, and the premise for every new opportunity.

Father, thank You that you have given us the provision to participate in Your life in every way—body, soul, and spirit—as three-dimensional Christians. In Jesus' name, Amen.